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| 09/653,767 | 09/01/2000 | Scott T. Allan | A-68678/MAK/LM | 6140 |
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| FAY KAPLUN & MARCIN, LLP 150 BROADWAY, SUITE 702 | | | OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P | |
| NEW YORK. | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3629 | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| · | Application No. | Applicant(s) | · |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| | 09/653,767 | ALLAN ET AL. | |
| Office Action Summary | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Jonathan Ouellette | 3629 | |
| The MAILING DATE of this communication a Period for Reply | appears on the cover sheet wi | th the correspondence add | ress |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REF WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory peri - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by sta Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the ma earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). | DATE OF THIS COMMUNIC 1.1.136(a). In no event, however, may a re- tiod will apply and will expire SIX (6) MON tute, cause the application to become AB | CATION. eply be timely filed THS from the mailing date of this com ANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). | |
| Status | | | |
| 1) ■ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 2a) ■ This action is FINAL. 2b) ■ To 3) ■ Since this application is in condition for allow closed in accordance with the practice under | his action is non-final. wance except for formal matte | • • | nerits is |
| Disposition of Claims | • | | |
| 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-15,26-61 and 63-73 is/are pendir 4a) Of the above claim(s) 65,66 and 71-73 is 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-15, 26-61, 63, 64, and 67-70 is/a 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and | s/are withdrawn from conside are rejected. | ration. | |
| Application Papers | | | |
| 9) The specification is objected to by the Examination The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) and a Applicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the | accepted or b) objected to be drawing(s) be held in abeyan rection is required if the drawing(| ce. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). s) is objected to. See 37 CFR | • • |
| Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 | | | |
| 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for forei a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority docume 2. Certified copies of the priority docume 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority docume application from the International Bure * See the attached detailed Office action for a li | ents have been received. ents have been received in Apriority documents have been eau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). | oplication No received in this National S | tage |
| Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | | ummary (PTO-413) | |
| 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date | |)/Mail Date formal Patent Application | |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-15, 26-61, 63-73 are currently pending in application 09/653,767; however, Claims 65, 66 and 71-73 are withdrawn from consideration due to an earlier restriction election.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. <u>Claims 1-13, 29-61, 63, 64, 68-70, 73</u> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleeper (US 6,401,074).
- 4. As per **independent Claims 1 and 68**, Sleeper discloses a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, the method (computer-readable medium) comprising: determining an advertisement for display and displaying the ad (Abstract, C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9).
- 5. Sleeper fails to expressly disclose dividing a consumer transaction at a POS location into multiple time frames, a total duration of time frames equaling a total duration of the transaction; and determining/displaying an add in said time frame; and adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one of the time frames has ended.

Art Unit: 3629

 However, Sleeper does disclose defining parts of a transaction (total transaction) by events, and displaying commercial information based on the event (C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9, C6 L50-67, C7 L1-8, C8 L9-27)

- 7. Futhermore, Sleeper discloses showing different information/messages based on the event (abstract, equivalent to changing the ad based on the time frame/event).
- 8. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included dividing a consumer transaction at a POS location into multiple time frames and determining/displaying an add in said time frame; and adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one of the time frames has ended, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to increase customer response/attentiveness by displaying a relevant advertisement as the transaction progresses.
- 9. As per Claim 2, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of dividing a transaction into time frames comprises dividing the transaction into time frames, each of the time frames substantially spanning an activity performed during a transaction.
- 10. As per Claims 3 and 69, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of dividing a transaction into time frames comprises dividing the transaction into time frames, one of the time frames spanning one of the following transaction activities: waiting for a consumer to begin a transaction; greeting a consumer; beginning a transaction; selecting a form of payment; swiping a card for a form of payment; entering a security code for the form of payment; identifying a product for purchase; displaying a total cost for products identified for purchase; signing for a transaction; and thanking a consumer for his purchase (all typical transaction events).

Art Unit: 3629

11. As per Claim 4, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of dividing a transaction into time frames (events) comprises dividing the transaction into time frames, each of the time frames spanning one of the following activities: waiting for a consumer to begin a transaction; greeting a consumer; beginning a transaction; selecting a form of payment; swiping a card for a form of payment; entering a security code for the form of payment; identifying a product for purchase; displaying a total cost for products identified for purchase; signing for a transaction; thanking a consumer for his purchase; surveying a consumer; promoting an event; applying for a credit card; informing a consumer; identifying a consumer; interacting with a consumer; and passing through an interstitial period (all typical transaction events).

- 12. As per Claim 5, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of dividing a transaction into time frames comprises dividing a consumer-product transaction into time frames (events).
- 13. As per Claims 6-8, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of dividing a transaction into time frames comprises dividing a bricks-and-mortar consumer-product transaction, e-commerce consumer-product transaction, or a consumer-service transaction, into time frames.
- 14. As per Claim 9, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of determining an ad display in one of the time frames comprises transmitting information about the transaction from the POS location to an ad-management service; determining on the ad-management service and based on the information, an ad for display; and receiving a response indicating the determined ad.
- 15. As per Claim 10, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of transmitting comprises broadcasting information to multiple ad-management services.
- 16. As per Claim 11, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of determining an ad comprises determining an ad, having an identifier; and the step of receiving an indicative response

Art Unit: 3629

comprises receiving the identifier for the determined ad and not the ad itself (tracking ad receipt, C9 L61-67, C10 L1-12).

- 17. As per Claim 12, Sleeper discloses caching the indicative response.
- 18. As per Claim 13, Sleeper discloses caching the indicative response and a targeting filter for the response; and subsequently applying the targeting filter to determine whether the ad indicated by the response is still appropriate for display.
- 19. As per Claim 29, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of determining an ad for display comprises reserving one of the time frames for ads for display without regard to transaction criteria; and when the one time frame is the reserved time frame, excluding all ads for display when the transaction meets predetermined criteria.
- 20. As per Claim 30, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of determining an ad for display comprises reserving all of the time frames for ads from a predetermined set of sponsors, the set having a size of one or more.
- 21. As per Claim 31, Sleeper discloses nonetheless determining an ad to display when the transaction meets predetermined criteria as the ad for display and preempting a reserved time frame with the determined ad.
- 22. As per Claim 32, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of displaying the ad comprises displaying the ad in the one time frame.
- 23. As per Claim 33, Franklin discloses wherein the step of displaying the ad comprises displaying the ad in a time frame following the one time frame.

Art Unit: 3629

24. As per Claim 34, Sleeper discloses setting a minimum duration for the determined ad; and the step of displaying the advertisement comprises displaying the ad for that minimum duration.

- 25. As per Claim 35, Sleeper discloses setting a system-wide minimum ad duration; and setting a minimum ad duration for the ad, the minimum ad duration a natural-number multiple of that system-wide minimum ad duration; and the step of displaying the advertisement comprises displaying the ad for that minimum ad duration.
- 26. As per Claim 36, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of displaying the advertisement comprises displaying the beginning of the ad but not the end of the ad.
- 27. As per Claim 37, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of displaying the advertisement comprises displaying the beginning of the ad but not its end due to an action of a consumer.
- 28. As per Claim 38, Sleeper discloses setting a minimum duration for the determined ad; and the step of displaying the advertisement comprises displaying the ad longer than that minimum duration due to an action of a consumer.
- 29. As per Claim 39, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of displaying comprises displaying the determined ad and another ad in the one time frame.
- 30. As per Claim 40, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of displaying comprises displaying in the one time frame the determined ad, having a first sponsor, and the other ad, having a sponsor different from the first sponsor.
- 31. As per Claim 41, Sleeper discloses responding to the ad.
- 32. As per Claim 42, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of responding to the ad comprises indicating one of consent and lack of consent to a proposition of the ad.

Art Unit: 3629

33. As per Claim 43, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of responding to the ad comprises indicating one of consent and lack of consent to a proposition of the ad by activating an input device at the POS location.

- 34. As per Claim 44, Sleeper discloses recording a representation of the response.
- 35. As per Claim 45, Sleeper discloses communicating a representation of the response to a computer system for collecting responses.
- 36. As per Claim 46, Sleeper discloses repeating the steps of determining and displaying an ad.
- 37. As per Claim 47, Sleeper discloses advancing from the one time frame into another time frame; and repeating the steps of determining and displaying an ad with the other time frame.
- 38. As per Claim 48, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of advancing comprises activating an input device at the POS location; and in response, advancing from the one time frame into the other time frame.
- 39. As per Claim 49, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of advancing comprises commanding from a POS system advancement from the one frame; and in response, advancing from the one time frame into the other time frame.
- 40. As per Claim 50, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of advancing comprises recognizing that activity that the one frame spans has ended; and in response, advancing from the one time frame into the other time frame.
- 41. As per Claim 51, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of advancing comprises recognizing that a timeout has occurred; and in response, advancing from the one time frame into the other time frame.

- 42. As per Claim 52, Sleeper discloses repeating the steps of determining and displaying an ad with successive ones of the multiple time frames until the transaction completes.
- 43. As per Claim 53, Sleeper discloses repeating the method from the step of dividing with a subsequent transaction.
- 44. As per Claim 54, Sleeper discloses repeating the steps of determining and displaying an ad with successive ones of the multiple time frames until a following transaction begins.
- 45. As per Claim 55, Sleeper discloses where the displayed ad was an ad for display when the transaction met predetermined criteria, disqualifying that ad from displaying again in the transaction.
- 46. As per Claim 56, Sleeper discloses where the displayed ad **was** an ad that is for display without regard to the specifics of the transaction and that originated in an ad-management service, disqualifying that ad from displaying again in the transaction.
- 47. As per Claim 57, Sleeper discloses receiving a first ad for display without regard to whether a transaction meets predetermined criteria.
- 48. As per Claim 58, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of receiving the first ad is performed before the step of dividing the transaction.
- 49. As per Claim 59, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of receiving the first ad comprises receiving, at a predetermined interval, ads for display without regard to whether a transaction meets predetermined criteria during the transaction.
- 50. As per independent Claim 60, Sleeper discloses a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, the method comprising: receiving a first ad (message) for display during a first time frame (event) and without regard to whether the

Art Unit: 3629

transaction meets predetermined criteria (Abstract, C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9); then engaging in the transaction; during the transaction, receiving a second ad for display <u>during a second time</u> <u>frame</u> when the transaction meets predetermined criteria (messages corresponding to events) (Abstract, C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9).

- 51. Sleeper fails to expressly disclose dividing a consumer transaction at a POS location into multiple time frames, a total duration of time frames equaling a total duration of the transaction; and determining/displaying an add in said time frame; and adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one of the time frames has ended.
- 52. However, Sleeper does disclose defining parts of a transaction (total transaction) by events, and displaying commercial information based on the event (C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9, C6 L50-67, C7 L1-8, C8 L9-27)
- 53. Futhermore, Sleeper discloses showing different information/messages based on the event (abstract, equivalent to changing the ad based on the time frame/event).
- 54. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included dividing a consumer transaction at a POS location into multiple time frames and determining/displaying an add in said time frame; and adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one of the time frames has ended, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to increase customer
- 55. As per Claim 61, Sleeper discloses wherein the steps of receiving the first ad for display comprises receiving, at a predetermined interval, ads for display without regard to whether the transaction meets predetermined criteria during the transaction.

Art Unit: 3629

56. As per Claim 63, Sleeper discloses during the transaction, displaying the second ad.

- 57. As per Claim 64, Sleeper discloses during the transaction, displaying the first and second ads.
- 58. As per Claim 70, Sleeper discloses a POS system displaying advertisement ("ads") comprising: the computer-readable medium of claim 68; a CPU for executing the program in the medium; a bus, communicatively coupling the medium ad the CPU; and a display, responsive to commands from the CPU.
- 59. <u>Claims 14-15 and 26-28</u> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleeper in view of Dejaeger et al. (US 6,456,981 B1).
- 60. As per Claim 14, Sleeper fails to expressly disclose wherein the step of determining an ad for display comprises prioritizing multiple ads competing for display, producing an ad with highest priority; determining the ad with highest priority as the ad for display.
- 61. However, Dejaeger discloses compiling a database of advertising material for display at a POS system, and selectively picking adds to provide the consumer (C12 L25-53). Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to selectively draw the advertisements based on a priority structure (i.e.: paid advertisers over store information, etc.).
- 62. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein the step of determining an ad for display comprises prioritizing multiple ads competing for display, producing an ad with highest priority; determining the ad with highest priority as the ad for display, as disclosed by Dejaeger, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to

Art Unit: 3629

increase customer response/attentiveness by displaying a relevant advertisement as the transaction progresses and by allowing additional revenue channels through advertisement charges.

- 63. As per Claim 15, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of prioritizing multiple competing ads comprises setting the priority of an ad for display when the transaction meets predetermined criteria (a "specific ad") higher than the priority of an ad for display when no specific ad is available.
- 64. As per Claim 26, Sleeper discloses displaying the determined ad; determining the next highest-priority ad, if any, as the ad for display.
- 65. As per Claim 27, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of determining further comprises overriding the determination of the highest-priority ad as the ad for display.
- 66. As per Claim 28, Sleeper discloses wherein the step of determining further comprises overriding the determination of the highest-priority ad as the ad for display at most once per transaction.
- 67. <u>Claim 67</u> is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleeper in view of Dejaeger, and further in view of Kolls (US 6,615,183)
- 68. As per **independent Claim 67**, Sleeper discloses a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, the method comprising: transmitting information about a transaction to an ad-management service; determining on the ad-management service, based on the information, an ad for display; receiving a response indicating the service, based on the information, an ad for display (Abstract, C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9); receiving a response indicating the service-determined ad; producing an ad when the

transaction meets predetermined criteria; displaying the determined ad in one of (1) a one time frame and (2) a frame following the one time frame from its beginning but not through its end due to an action of a consumer but other wise from its beginning through its end; and repeating the steps of determining and displaying an ad with successive ones of the multiple time frames (events) until the transaction completes (Abstract, C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9).

- 69. Sleeper fails to expressly disclose dividing a transaction into time frames, a total duration of the time frames equaling a total duration of the transaction, each of the time frames spanning one of the following activities: waiting for a consumer to begin a transaction; greeting a consumer; beginning a transaction; selecting a form of payment; swiping a card for a form of payment; entering a security code for the form of payment; identifying a product for purchase; displaying a total cost for products identified for purchase; signing for a transaction; thanking a consumer (for) his purchase; surveying a consumer; promoting an event; applying for a credit card; informing a consumer; identifying a consumer; interacting with a consumer; and passing through an interstitial period; and if the ad is displayed in the one time frame, adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one time frame has ended.
- 70. However, Sleeper does disclose defining parts of a transaction by events, and displaying commercial information based on the event (C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9, C6 L50-67, C7 L1-8, C8 L9-27).
- 71. Futhermore, Sleeper discloses showing different information/messages based on the event (abstract, equivalent to changing the ad based on the time frame/event).

Art Unit: 3629

72. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included dividing a transaction into, each of the time frames spanning one of the following activities: waiting for a consumer to begin a transaction; greeting a consumer; beginning a transaction; selecting a form of payment; swiping a card for a form of payment; entering a security code for the form of payment; identifying a product for purchase; displaying a total cost for products identified for purchase; signing for a transaction; thanking a consumer (for) his purchase; surveying a consumer; promoting an event; applying for a credit card; informing a consumer; identifying a consumer; interacting with a consumer; and passing through an interstitial period; and if the ad is displayed in the one time frame, adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one time frame has ended, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to increase customer response/attentiveness by displaying a relevant advertisement as the transaction progresses.

- 73. Sleeper also fails to expressly disclose prioritizing any ads competing for display, producing an ad with highest priority, by setting the priority of an ad for display when the transaction meets predetermined criteria (a "specific ad") higher than the priority of an ad for display when no specific ad is available; determining the ad with highest priority as the ad for display.
- 74. However, Dejaeger discloses compiling a database of advertising material for display at a POS system, and selectively picking adds to provide the consumer (C12 L25-53).

 Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

Art Unit: 3629

invention was made to selectively draw the advertisements based on a priority structure (i.e.: paid advertisers over store information, etc.).

- 75. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included prioritizing any ads competing for display, producing an ad with highest priority, by setting the priority of an ad for display when the transaction meets predetermined criteria (a "specific ad") higher than the priority of an ad for display when no specific ad is available; determining the ad with highest priority as the ad for display, as disclosed by Dejaeger, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to increase customer response/attentiveness by displaying a relevant advertisement as the transaction progresses and by allowing additional revenue channels through advertisement charges.
- 76. Finally, Although Sleeper does disclose the ability to obtain user input (C12, L19-25), and Dejaeger discloses recording survey results related to advertisements; Sleeper and Dejaeger fail to expressly disclose recording a representation of any response to the ad.
- 77. However, Kolls discloses recording a representation of any response to a POS ad (Claim 1).
- 78. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included recording a representation of any response to the ad as discloses by Kolls, in the system disclosed by Dejaeger, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to increase customer service by tracking customer

Art Unit: 3629

interactions with the POS advertising and developing marketing plans with the tracked information.

Response to Arguments

- 79. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims <u>1-15</u>, <u>26-61</u>, <u>63</u>, <u>64</u>, <u>and 67-70</u> have been considered have been fully considered but are not persuasive. The rejection will remain as **FINAL**, based on the sited prior art.
- 80. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.
- 81. The applicant has made the argument that the prior art of Sleeper fails to teach or suggest adjusting dividing a consumer transaction at a POS location into multiple time frames, a total duration of the time frames equaling a total duration of the transaction.
- 82. However, Sleeper does disclose defining parts of a transaction (total transaction) by events, and displaying commercial information based on the event (C1 L35-67, C2 L1-9, C6 L50-67, C7 L1-8, C8 L9-27)

Art Unit: 3629

83. Futhermore, Sleeper discloses showing different information/messages based on the event (abstract, equivalent to changing the ad based on the time frame/event).

- 84. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included dividing a consumer transaction at a POS location into multiple time frames and determining/displaying an add in said time frame; and adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one of the time frames has ended, in the system disclosed by Sleeper, for the advantage of providing a method for displaying advertisements ("ads") at a point-of-sale (POS) location, with the ability to increase customer response/attentiveness by displaying a relevant advertisement as the transaction progresses.
- 85. Furthermore, the Applicant has made the argument that the prior art of Sleeper fails to teach or suggest adjusting a duration of the ad based on whether the one of the time frames has ended.
- 86. However, Sleeper discloses showing different information/messages based on the event (Abstract); which would be equivalent to changing the ad based on the time frame/event, as the messages are dependent on the events, therefore, the length of the event dictates the length of the message.

Conclusion

87. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.

- 88. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

 John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization
 where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official
 communications.
- 89. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent

JO

November 19, 2006

JONATHAN OUELLETTE
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